

Rare Plants of Louisiana



Sabatia arenicola - sand rose-gentian Gentian Family (Gentianaceae)

Rarity Rank: S1/G3G5

	1	2	3	4	5
State					
Global					
	imperiled		rare		secure

Range: LA, TX, northeast Mexico

Recognition:

- Stems to 30 cm tall, often branched from the base to form a rounded, bushy appearance
- Succulent leaves are broadest above the base and non-clasping, and up to 2.5 cm long
- Petals 5, pink or sometimes white, corolla lobes to 15 mm long
- Calyx tube strongly 5-angled, the angles with strong ribs



Flowering Time: Late spring and early summer

Light Requirement: Full sun

Wetland Indicator Status: FACW – usually in wetlands

Habitat:

Most known occurrences are on high energy Gulf beaches of the Deltaic Plain. There is one old record from beach and dunes at Johnsons Bayou in Cameron Parish. There is a record from a marsh in Orleans Parish which is suspicious. The one St. Tammany record is from a remnant barrier island on the north shore of Lake Pontchartrain.

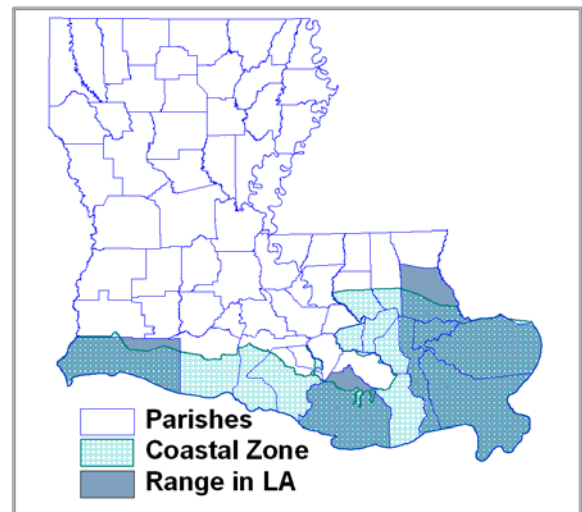
Threats:

- Shoreline erosion
- Off-road vehicle use
- Overgrazing

Beneficial Management Practices:

- Shoreline or island stabilization
- Prohibit off-road vehicle use
- Prohibit livestock grazing

LA River Basins: Pearl, Pontchartrain, Mississippi, Barataria, Terrebonne, Mermentau, Calcasieu, Sabine



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Sabatia arenicola on Gulf beach on Grand Terre Island. *S. arenicola* is present and can be viewed at Grand Isle State Park.

References:

- Godfrey, R. K. and J. W. Wooten. 1981. Aquatic and wetland plants of the southeastern United States: dicotyledons. University of Georgia Press, Athens, GA. 933 pp.
- Richardson, A. 2002. Wildflowers and other plants of Texas beaches and islands. University of Texas Press, Austin. 247 pp.
- USDA, NRCS. 2007. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.